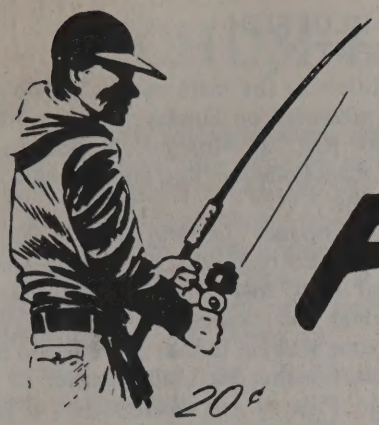

The Long Island FISHERMAN

SEPTEMBER 23rd, ISSUE NO. 36, 1971

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STRIPED BASS & BLUEFISH TOURNAMENT

Fin & Feather Association of Montauk, Long Island and Westchester County, New York is having a Striped Bass and Blue Fish Tournament in Montauk on September 28th, 29th, and 30th, October 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, Tuesday through Sunday.

The tournament is open to everyone, including youngsters and women. Fish of either species may be caught from shore or by boat. There will be prizes awarded in the following categories: $100 cash and a trophy for the largest bluefish. $50 cash and a trophy for the largest fish caught by a female angler. $50 cash and a trophy for the largest fish caught by a youngster under 16 years old.

In addition, daily certificates of merit for the four largest fish in each category will be presented. The presentation of these daily certificates are in addition to the main awards, which wil be presented on Sunday, October 3rd a 5:00 p.m. at Montauk Marine Basir Montauk Point, our host and official weig station.

Entrance fee will be $15.00 pe angler. Entry blanks, along with tourn ment rules, may be picked up at mos marinas and tackle stations in Montauk Anyone wishing further information may contact wither Mr. John Meurer or M Carlo Pilla at our Westchester office- phone (914) 666-7585 or, in Montauk, a (516) 668-5588.

Proceeds from the tournament wil be donated to Dr. John Baiardi, Directo of New York Ocean Science Laboratory Montauk, New York. Monies will be used to further their studies in all phases o marine biology and, in particular, their mercury testing program.

The Long Island
FISHERMAN
THE LARGEST WEEKLY GUIDE FOR FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA
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CHUM LINES

Sirs,

You write for the initiated. I enjoy fishing but have little time to indulge. I need your paper to actually pinpoint the place - how to get there - where a fish might possibly be caught during a couple of mid-day hours on a Sunday. If you can't do that the paper only tends to feed frustration. S.K., Riverdale

■ *Monday, maybe. But Sunday- that's frustration!*

Come on, fellows,

you've got a good publication. So good that when we had to trim the budget this year, we chucked a major monthly and kept L.I.F.

But the way you replied (8/26) to that surfman's comments (Elhart, Bronx) irks me a little. Here's my view, amid some further spots for fellow casters, especially who travel from N.Y.C.

Bayville: can park pre-Memorial Day and post-Labor Day; Stahli's Beach and Centre Island. Walk along west at Stahli's. At Centre you might wade as far as Rocky Point. But bring a heavy jig with razor blades soldered to where the treble was. For when boatmen find no action out deep, their sportsmanship takes them noisily along shore; whereupon your action ceases. Except for your cutting shellfish lines with a proper cast of the razors.

Sunken Meadow: same season as Bayville. Whole coast to Nissequogue River - yet, those motorized water-roaches in all their frenzy for action, action. The average boatmen get bored, you know, just looking at the water and learning of nature. But then, they do spend most of the money that goes for sport fishing.

Casters, thanks to L.I.F. we learned of Reeves Beach and Roanoke Point. Long trip though!

Can travel? Risk parking summons? North shore is big fish. But don't knock 'Private Property.' Sneak in gratefully. Without this, it all would become one big grassy boat marina.

Jones Beach and Democrat Pt. cited 9/9: At west end, don't always just head for the suds. Walk west to a sand bar of Jones Inlet: needs a night-time ebb; (strong west wind no good) and hope decent fish got past the skilled clam-chummers at those bridges. Fire Island: work all inlet shore as well as the wash (not the same night). Back shore surprising: rips, deep holes near by. Mostly ebb. 30 Pound stripers last July by Democrat Point's rocks. (Don't try these rocks in waders.) But each year the shore shifts. Weeknights are best only because there are less boats then. Clam-chummers too? Guess.

Now for L.I.F.'s logo. My fellow casters comments on it were not rightly answered (8/26). True, the figure conceptually could represent all of us, boatmen and casters. But not spontaneously, image-wise. Spontaneously it projects the atmosphere expressive of sportfishing's traditional ingredient: the long cast. Who has tended spontaneously to imagine the figure sitting, or standing, in a boat? Yes, the best of boatmen do stand up and plug around, sometimes. But this fact does not entitle us to ignore what L.I.F.'s perfect logo particularly conveys. He does not remind us of grabbing a throttle, or scanning sonar, etc. But of standing at the white edge, of working many beaches with a disciplined, athletic expertise. By multiple causes, he has been reduced to a few pressed shores on Long Island (his space in L.I.F. is proportionate). Yet his strong attitude toward nature and fishing close in it: an attitude and a love which must endure in order for him to remain "a surf nut," tend not to contribute to the formation of what Al Reinfelder called "a Buck Rogers world" (in one of Al's truly grest articles).

O.K., O.K., the logo is all Long Island fishermen. O.K., O.K., many boatmen are diversely skilled, true sportsmen, lovers of nature, and considerate of others. O.K., I exaggerated one form of fishing over another. Let's keep the variety in life. No 'fanatic purism.' But many who start boat fishing nowadays have not the slightest inkling of the specific beauty of surfcasting. And as fishing grows, it is the boats that increase while the availability of good surf-catching decreases. Shall this form of the sport verge toward extinction?

By reserving a scheduled space strictly for casting L.I.F. could serve to variously inform all L.I. fishermen of this rich part of the sport. Thusly, L.I.F. would not inadvertently support the notions that you must have a boat to catch fish, and that the only enjoyment and benefit of fishing is in the catching, and lots of it. These mistaken notions are really out there, ehlping to increase the contemporary living's compartmentalization and mechanization, even into this sport. Fishing becomes something else with a 'must' and an 'only.'

Come on, fellows. Let's have a Strictly Casting Space, once a month at least. Even only I could give that much to you. Vince Guaglianone, Stony Brook

■ *"Buck Rogers World?" When's the last time you saw a "Model A" riding on "doughnuts" without a whip antenna? O.K., O.K., peace. Anyone interested in contributing surf articles is on, but no razor blades please. Besides, filed down, No.4 Hopkins are more effective.*

COURSE IN OUTBOARD MOTOR REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE

A 10 week course in Outboard Motor Maintenance and Repair will be given at the Westbury High School, corner of Jericho Turnpike and Post Avenue, beginning Monday, Sept. 27th at 7:45 p.m.

Registration for this Adult Education Course can be made on the night of the first class. Fees will be $10.00 for residents and $13.00 for non-residents. For information call Director, Mr. John Hotchkiss, (516) 334-8800, Ext. 812.

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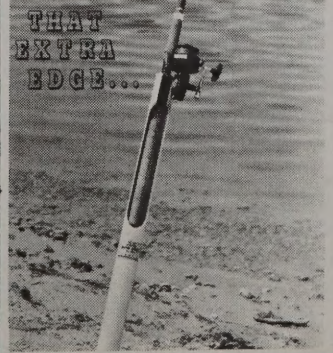

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Topwaterswimmingplugalitis: 1 - a disease that affects plug-casting fishermen. 2 - a sickness that has been controlled by the immunization of modern trends. 3 - an illness that is rewarding. 4 - Don's disease.

****

With the belt drawn so tight that my hood and waders could easily have been mistaken for an hourglass, I made my way around the lower wall at Matinecock Point. A northeaster was building up strength along with the top end of the tide. The salt spray was working its way under my chin, down my chest, collecting at the belt line and finally trickling down inside my waders at my backside. An hour later I crawled to the top wall, made my way to the car, stripped, dumped 10 gallons of water from my waders and went home.

"How'd you make out, Don?" Eddy Z was making one of his normal ten phone calls per day.

"I couldn't get the bomb out more than 30 feet, but every cast sucked a half dozen wildeyed 20 or better pigs. I watched all of them frantically fight to nail themselves to the Senior. I had a ball."

"Land any?"

"How the hell could I? The white water was over my head, I never got the slack out of the line, and those that were hooked I dropped trying to dig my fingers into the concrete for a hold."

****

The lower wall at Matinecock Point is long since gone, due to errosion and lack of maintenance. The number 40 Senior Atom, created by Bob Pond, has, as he himself told me, erroded away due to lack of interest and manufacturing complications. Both are no more.

'Tis sad and indeed a downright shame to see plugs that were favorites disappear from the shelves at tackle shops. Creek Chub pulled their big surfster from their catalog several years back; although I understand that it is still available on special order. The smaller version - a real killer of school bass, snook and many other gamefish, in the hands of someone who knows how to manipulate a top swimmer - disappeared not long after. However, not all is lost. Some of these aforementioned plugs are still around and they are backed up with the Junior Atom and the top water Goo-Goo Eyes swimmer. (Plugs that have two bottom hooks and a tail hook are the subject matter in today's column. I rather prefer those that can be found on Long Island anyway.)

The news about the fate of the No. 40 Atom kind of blew a hole in what was intended to be a serious article on how-to work with big swimmers and get the most out of them, but in hope that more manufacturers will heed the needs of a select group of anglers, I have decided to go on anyway.

****

I haven't used a naked swimming plug in years. It's common knowledge with those that know me that all my plugs (from here on plugs are top water swimming plugs) are rigged with eelskins; right side out, inside out, long, short, heavy tailed, split tailed and thin tailed. Perhaps some, like me, are half tailed. To minimize confusion and to adhere to the plugs alone, for the time being, I will discuss the plugs as they come from the package.

The most popular plug on Long Island has to be the No. 54 Junior Atom. Unknown to many, this plug has undergone some changes and is also available with a slight variation; both to the advantage of the fisherman, especially if he still has some of the older models. This last statement holds true with all plugs, as a variety becomes our primary concern.

As modern methods of manufacturing change, along with the materials used, so does the action of a lure. Be it ever so slight that the average fisherman can't tell the difference, striped bass can. (Proven many times over.) The density of the plastic or styrofoam can be different with each batch of plugs that come from the molds. There are also times when the top half doesn't exactly match the bottom half of the plug. (It must be understood that I am not knocking these plugs. If anything, I look for them, as this is what can make a winner among dozens of others.)

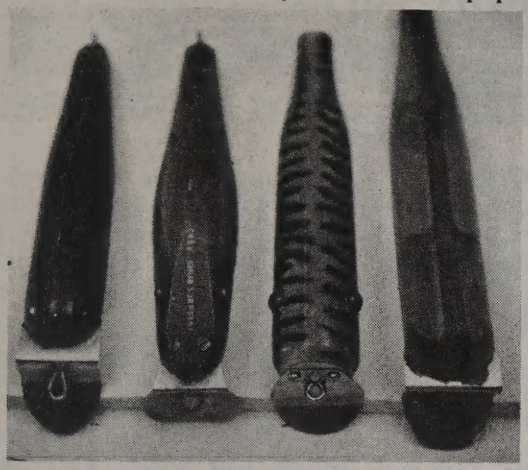
The Atom Juniors that adorn most tackle shop walls have a pinch of lead in the tail section of the plug. This enables the caster to get a few more feet of distance. It also drags the tail deeper, thus the plug does not actually swim on top of the water. All well and good. This action may do it one day. Take another, bend the eye down, push the metal swimming lip down slightly, and the plug reaches for the surface. It doesn't always make it. And to complicate the situation, you may force the plug to roll from side to side rather than kick its tail with a favorable rear end quiver. Fine; you have another with different action.

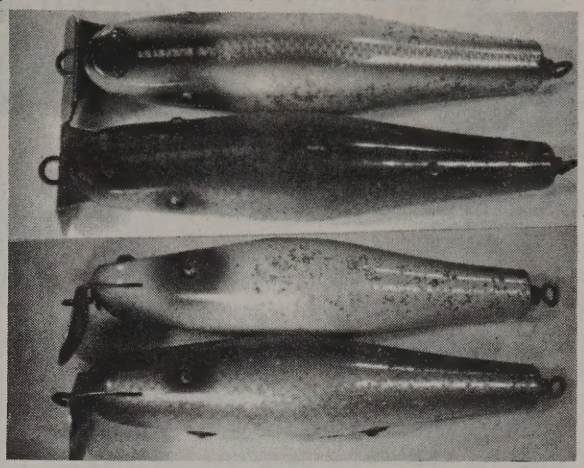
There also exists a no-lead Junior Atom; known within my fishing circle for some time, and certainly by those who truly appreciate top water fishing everywhere. It has no popularity with anglers trying to prove how far they can cast. But for those who have slammed a few big ones no more than 10 feet away and better understand the peculiar habits of the striper, it is high on the list of wanted items. The eye and lip of this plug can also be manipulated to create different swimming patterns. With less weight in the tail it is possible to force this plug to literally whip the surface. At other times the addition of a pinch-on sinker, a few inches up on the leader, drops the plug just below the surface. Constantly mixing my no-leads with the standard Junior Atoms, only one sure formula for finding the difference exists. Place them in the water, where they will float. The plugs that have the small lead in the tail ride nose up and tail down. The no-leads float high without the tail dipping slightly under.

Twisting and bending the lips and towing eyes can create lefthanded and righthanded plugs. Strange as it seems, there must be stripers who have a preference. I could recall hundreds of experiences to bear this out and other oddities about plugs. These did not occur in the bass infested waters of New England. Not at Montauk in the fall, where it sometimes seems possible to walk to Block Island on the backs of feeding fish. These episodes took place during the doldrums, in waters considered to be void of fish and pickings were slim. In fact, many a trip was considered a success if you so much as boiled a big one. Picking one out of a school of content fish was considered a bonanza. Yet knowing you were pitting your knowledge against all odds, and not relying on chum or other unseen baits dangling or jerking beneath the surface, was the real reward.

Memories side-tracked me for a moment, mainly because the next plug to discuss may become one. The Bomb; so nicknamed because it hit the water like one, killed big bass like one, and, as every other lure does on most occasions, bombed out like one, the Senior Atom. The most difficult of all top water plugs that I have used, yet one of the best. The single most aggrivating problem with this swimmer was its willingness to de-

Atom Jr.-Surfster-Husky Dude-Atom Sr.-Lip up or down -Eye up or down-four different sizes-A dozen different actions.





velop leaks and take on water like my old rowboat. Epoxy fillers finally came to the rescue, making repairs simple and quick. Not as many tricks can be performed with this daddy. But like the Junior, up and down is possible by bending the eye. This plug I have always preferred up and making a wake like a crippled mullet or bunker. A few come through with heavier bodies. Some are lazier than others. Again, all serve a specific purpose at one time or another. I used to notch the lip with a file on the big Atoms that I favored, only to find, after I had lost them, that the others could also produce. This plug is big and perhaps that is its true attribute. Originally made of wood and very similar to the "Captain Bill," it has lost popularity because of its weight. I know a dozen men who lob them all day long without a whimper of dissatisfaction. I'm one of them.

"You can't beat wood." Old timers still drum this phrase out whether they are talking about boats, docks, butts or plugs. I only buy the plug bit. If you want a plug that's sure to work the surface, which means it must float, wood is an obvious solution.

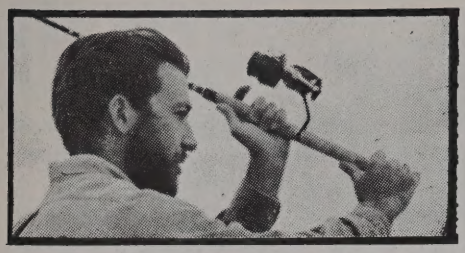
Gone from the displays, and worse, from the surfers goody-bag, is the big wooden Surfster once produced by Creek Chub. This plug caused more heartache than any other I have known. Fat bodies, cigar shapes, shaved heads, single belly hooks; from year to year you couldn't bet on getting the same plug. A spoon shaped concave swimming lip (privately I call it a vane, but apparently this is not the accepted description) that to my knowledge has never been duplicated. Strong and powerful swimming action comes from this baby. A very reliable and stationary lip is not the least of its qualities. Many plugs need complete overhauling after an encounter with a big fish. This one takes a lot of punishment. Pushing in the lip and toying with the eye creates the same results as the others. However, because the density of the wood can be different in each plug or a slight difference in its thickness can also alter its action, every Surfster does not swim the same. Fortunately for me, I still have a few narrow bodied surfsters and several pregnant ones. All will get their chance to prove themselves when conditions warrant it. Meanwhile, some have been set aside with other favorites, as I dare not lose them.

Every plug has its drawbacks. The Surfster, and I can't single out any particular year class, has one very serious quirk. The belly hooks are so close together that they marry; that is, they tangle together. This occurs often in flight, but the seriousness comes with a fish on. Married hooks don't hold fish. So the Surfster is a constant dropper. Its value as a fish finder outweighs this factor and if I had to make a choice of one plug only, I would choose above all others, the big wooden Surfster.

Disappointment with unwon battles against them damned stripers plagues me once in a while. But I don't think I ever raised as many truly big bass on plugs as I did last year, and with few exceptions, lost them all. This certainly doesn't sound like an endorsement for top water swimming plugs, and what makes it worse, they all fell for one particular plug, the 20M Husky Dude Goo-Goo Eyes. The plug itself wasn't to blame. Theorizing afterwards, I concluded that all these fish either rushed me, preventing me from setting the hooks deeply enough or they poured it on across rocky bottom wrenching the barbs and eventually the hooks completely out of line. One particular fish was lost because I was more concerned with the others that seemingly were only tail-slapping the plug and then he took me by complete surprise. This plug has a long, thick body made of wood. The tail tapers off quickly. Much the same as a fast tapered rod tip, the tail goes into action very fast. It rides high and works hard. I find it, with an eel-skin, to be the closest plug resembling a baited live bunker. The towing eye is stationary and cannot be bent. The lip can be modified with different bends either to slow the action or increase it. Repeating what I said about other plugs, you will find varieties with this one also. More paint and a different finish can change the delicate balance. Just when you think you have the perfect answer, a big fish smashes it, and you start all over.

These four plugs are all of different size and weights. Their own differences plus the distinct size differential offers you more than a dozen individual plugs to cast and work over finicky stripers. Some of the plastic bodies will leak in a little water, the wooden ones will absorb water too. Knowing what has changed in a plug is half the secret of success with them. Duplicating a winner is seldom accomplished, thank goodness. If this were true, I would have a shed full of all that I once favored. Bass are smarter than we give them credit. They soon acclimate to particular patterns and changes are often very successful. I'll take issue with those who suggest that one pattern is a cure-all. I would also suggest that you don't judge a plug's action by dragging it in the bathtub or only a few feet alongside the boat. A plug on the far end of a long line, in different turbulence or stronger tides, does not react the same.

If the plug you are fishing with isn't drumming up any activity, it's time to make a change. This can occur hundreds of times in one fishing adventure. If you aren't already afflicted with topwaterswimmingplugalitis, take along a few of these plugs next time out. One big bass crashing over a plug that is plainly visible, and moving along slowly at that, will surely start a mild case, to say the least.



PLUGGIN' AROUND

BY AL REINFELDER

MEDICINE BOW WILDERNESS TROUT

I hadn't planned on rock climbing. Yet there I was spider-spread on a slippery wall above the North Platte River where it crosses the Colorado-Wyoming border into Medicine Bow National Forest. Grabbing footholds with wader-clad toes was like tying flies with boxing gloves on. I began to feel insecure above the churning, milky turbulence where the river pressed through a narrow gorge. Why was I there?

(Often, when I find myself incredibly situated - lost on an ocean, stranded on a disappearing sand bar, tumbling down a mountain river without benefit of canoe, running from mad dogs along the Bayville Wall - I stop and ponder this question: "What the hell am I doing here?")

"I am searching for sacred objects: Wild, big, beautiful, native, unstocked, holy, trout," I tell myself as my one free hand fingers along a crevasse for its next hold.

"Let your fingers do the walking," I hear my irreverent mind whisper behind its sweat-beaded forehead protector. Something screams in the air above the canyon. I cannot look, but suspect that it is a hawk of some kind. It is cool and damp along the black rock wall, but my legs are starting to steam inside the rubber legs of the waders. I have a desire to throw my rod down so that I can pin my body against the stone cliff.

Inches later I am able to rest on a ledge, dismantle the back-packer rod I brought from the east, and store it in my canvas bag which contains food and gear. This makes climbing much easier and in fifteen minutes I am down on a soft sandy bank.

Here there are no sounds but those which rest men's souls. The river speaks of rushes and riffles, trees brush the wind, birds dart among the high tangles of the cottonwoods, hemlocks and spruces. I think I see an eagle at the hard edge of the canyon lip above me. (I have not yet heard of the great Wyoming eagle slaughter which was making headlines around the country at that very moment.) My removed waders are inside out to dry. I eat an early lunch so that my pack will be lighter and I can have the rest of the day free to fish.

The North Platte begins to develop into a great trout stream among the wide mountain-rimmed prairies of Northern Colorado. It is shallow and wide as it wafts through wild hay and sage of the big ranches around Walden and Cowdrey. Driving north through this region, a feeling of space begins to break into consciousness. It is like being alone in a small boat on a large, colorful sea.

As the stream flows through the State Line Ranch, it begins to take on stature. Here is fly fishing water of the finest kind: Riffles and small stone pools, graceful curves with dark outer edges, sun-sparkling open water. It threads its way among vast lands.

All rivers carry their history with them. Here, where I was eating lunch, the waters' ranchland wandering had marked it with a ginger tint. A trout, feeding on a mid-day hatch, flashed a gilded side from the heavy ripples behind a mid-stream boulder.

After the meal I tried to take this trout, but failed. As I moved downstream, wading easily now with a modest current behind me, I switched from dry flies to the streamers I always favor for big western trout - No. 6 Grey Ghosts and No. 6 Muddlers. As a big fly straightened out below me a two pound rainbow hit it and cleared the air as I struck back. The fish's back was very green above his bright red side. I watched him use the current to pull the line from my hand.

It is a risky thing to do, but I do not use a landing net. Instead, I try to pick the fish up - if he is small, or slid him up on a bank - if he is large. Intermediate fish like this one give some bad moments in mid-river.

I was able to take the hook out and release the trout without injury. But before I let him slip back into the north-flowing current, I looked at him carefully. Sensual, as all trout are, he lay tense but unmoving in my hand. His head and body were in good proportion - a sign of plentiful forrage. The colors were rich and deep - those of a fish that has spent much time in the river. (He might have been stocked a year or two ago, but it was also possible that he was naturally spawned on one of the upper river gravel beds.) Dark spots pebbled the pine-shadow green of his back. I put him back with respect for his species as well as for himself.

Downstream, beyond curves in the canyon, beyond startled mule deer caught browsing among lush green shoreline grasses in isolated land-coves, beyond the narrow blue ceiling where wild birds soared, beyond the sharp-tailed grouse which ran unafraid before me, the river quieted. It was very still here. I fished deep pools.

A heavy boil appeared behind my fly as it darted from shore. Now a wake. The big fish rushed, engulfed the brown mottly Muddler and I raised my rod hard. Ivory line yanked through my hand behind the strong rushes of the big brown trout as he ran down a narrow lick of current.

It is now possible to view the scene from a respectable distance. But at the moment all available energies were centered on the fish. I did not notice the brown stone slabs overhanging the slipping water of the river; I did not hear the multi-various crickets; I did not notice the snakes and birds along the shoreline. Only the fish, and his pulsating runs, and his primeval strength transported to the rod via the silken line had room in my awareness.

Bright spots of red, rimmed in blue, sparked at the river's skin as the huge brown rose to thrash in an attempt to lose the fly. I held tight and led the fish ever closer to my grasp.

At last he lay limp at the grassy edge of the Platte. Big and wild he had been worn down by the fibrous rod. I reached for him and slid him up onto the green bank.

As big as any I had ever caught; as wild as the unnamed yellow-white flowers buttoning the grasses; as near as my hand; yet as foreign as the silhouetted eagles; he bent the river-side weeds in his final moments.

Without thought I yanked the lethal hook and picked the fish up in both hands. Without hesitation I lowered him into the streaming current and let him gather strength. Without a moments pause he slipped from my grasp and merged into the mysterious, ever flowing, most beautiful, North Platte River of the great western horizon.

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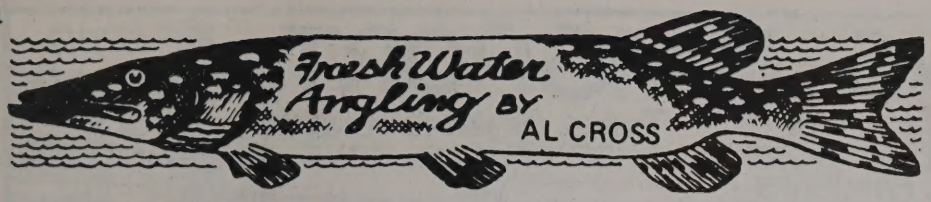

In my last article I discussed, in some detail, the advantages of late fall tidal stream and river fishing for brown trout. There is an added bonus to this kind of fishing that I didn't go into in that column. I had a good example of this extra dividend one evening last fall. I'll tell you about it.

I was out on the Connetquot River in Oakdale. I was mainly fishing for trout but I was in for some surprises. The area I was working is just south of the Bubbles Pool and the railroad bridge. This section of the river is bordered by private property but can be reached by small boat. That evening I was using a fly rod and was casting a streamer fly. That part of the river was alive with small spearing. Larger fish had herded them along a dock that was thirty yards from my boat. The streamer I was using was a good copy of the spearing that the big fish were feeding on. By casting across to the dock and running the bait back through the current I was taking fish on nearly every cast. The finned friends coming in were not all trout, in fact only a small percentage of them were. When the evening was over my count was six trout that were between one and two pounds, four school-sized striped bass between two and five pounds, fifteen to twenty snapper blues, and more white perch than I bothered to count.

Now some people may not consider this fresh water fishing. It does, however, provide some good hours of enjoyment when you can't find it on your favorite lake or stream. You can do this fishing from mid-September till the late fall. With the right kind of tackle, even the extreme purist is bound to have a ball.

This tidal river fishing will give the fly-rod man a chance to fish with streamers, which is something most fly-rodders don't get to do here on Long Island. He must first check the natural bait fish present and then match his streamers accordingly. If there are grass shrimp present any good imitation of them could prove to be killers, to a point that is almost unbelievable.

Although I took none on the evening just discussed, I would look for weakfish moving into some of our creeks and rivers at this time of the year.

Spin fishermen, also, will find no end of enjoyment at tidal stream fishing in the late fall season. For myself, I like to use my spin tackle, and the lighter the better. Of course this is my preference. For a lure, any type that resembles a small bait fish will generally bring results. In the early fall you can find this kind of fishing in almost every canal, creek or river that is tidal fed.

As I have noted previously, many people would not call this kind of fishing fresh water angling. But the fish and the excitement are there, so why not take advantage of them? Actually, any trout with access to salt water will run out to it. This is true of other species considered by most people to be fresh water fish. A good example of this is the large brown trout that was taken off Montauk this year. At first it was mistaken for a salmon until the Conservation Department recognized it as a brown trout which had most likely come from one of the rivers in Connecticut.

On the other side of the picture are the many salt water species that will range into brackish and even right up to the fresh water. Some of them do this ranging for the purpose of spawning, others for individual reasons of the moment. All in all this running of the fresh water fish out to the sea and the salt water fish into the streams and rivers brings about a mixing of the two sports in a way that can give some of the pleasures of both.

For years I was exclusively an ardent fresh water man. Then about eight years ago I worked with two men who might be considered 'striper sharpies.' They pestered me to try their kind of fishing and I finally gave in. They took me to the Cross Bay Boulevard Bridge, a place that had been producing well for them at the time. The only saltwater outfit I owned then was a small boat rod and reel. I sat on the bridge with them for about two hours. We were using bottom rigs with shedder crabs. Each of my friends had taken one small bass apiece and this particular fresh water man was starting to get bored. Finally, I had had enough and I told my friends I was going back to the car and take a nap. As I was walking back I noticed the flow from under the bridge ran from the main span around the corner under the Howard Beach Bridge and then up into a canal. This section looked very promising and I thought that as long as I was there it wouldn't hurt to investigate. As usual, I had a fresh water spinning outfit and an assortment of fresh water bass plugs in my trunk. I grabbed these and headed for the small bridge. The bridge was supported by wood pilings and I started casting into the pockets between the pilings. My third or fourth cast, using a hula-popper, put me into my first striper, a fish of nine pounds. About fifteen minutes later, and probably fifty or a hundred casts later, I pulled in another fish, this one weighing about fifteen pounds. My friends, as you can guess, hardly talked to me for two months. But they had accomplished one thing for sure. They opened my eyes, that had long been closed, to the fact that there were other kinds of fishing. I still am and will always be a fresh water man, but I have broadened my field of play. Now I do as much salt water fishing as fresh and hang unto one principle. I fish with as light a tackle as possible and have caught many stripers, bluefish, and in the last two years weakfish, on what most salt water men would consider fairy wands and cobweb lines. It's been fun!

The point I've been trying to make is fishing is fishing no matter where you pursue it. The fresh water purist who hasn't been having too much success lately might lay aside some of his hard and fast ideas, but not his regular fresh water gear, and go out and try our tidal streams. He might find he would like it more than he could guess. He would be opening up a whole new fishing world for himself without a big outlay for extra gear.

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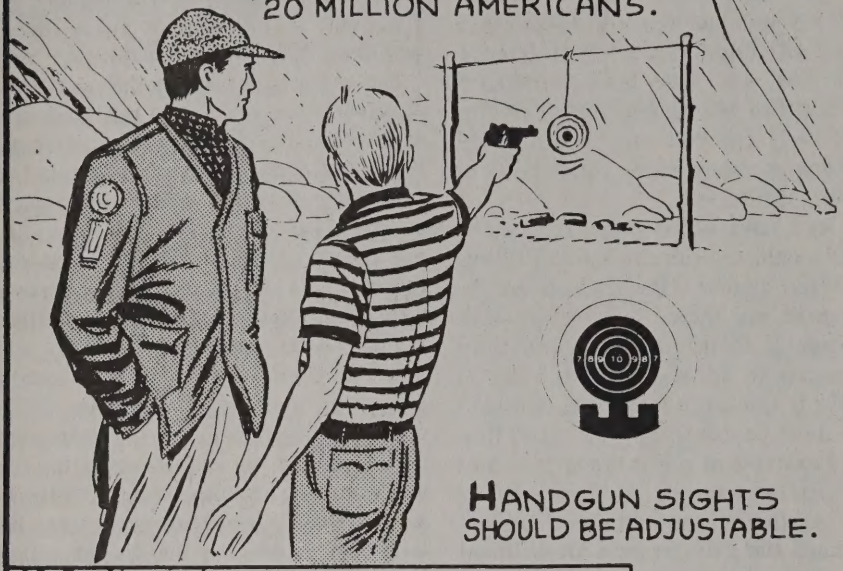
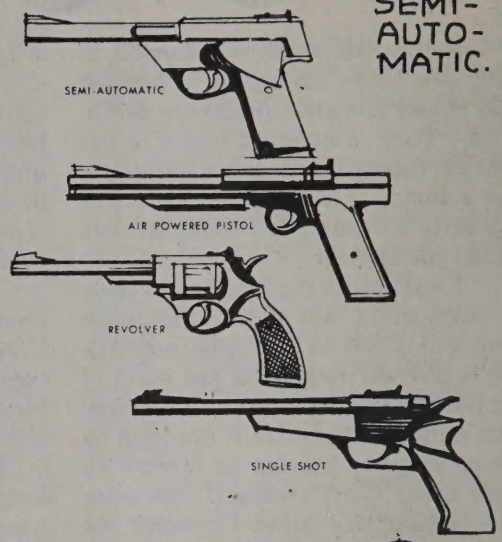
HANDGUNS AS A FAMILY SPORT

BY FRED GUARDINEER

SKILLFUL SHOOTING WITH A PISTOL OR REVOLVER IS A REWARDING SPORT ENJOYED BY INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND GROUPS - AND IS A WAY OF LIFE WITH 20 MILLION AMERICANS.

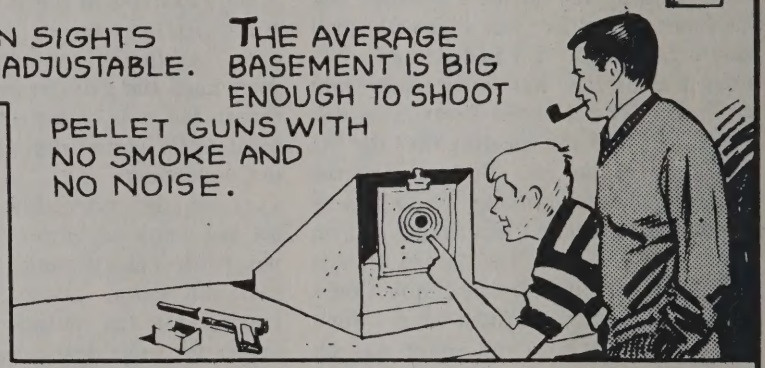


TYPES OF HANDGUNS ARE SINGLE SHOT PISTOLS, REVOLVERS AND SEMI-AUTOMATIC.



HANDGUN SIGHTS SHOULD BE ADJUSTABLE.

THE AVERAGE BASEMENT IS BIG ENOUGH TO SHOOT PELLET GUNS WITH NO SMOKE AND NO NOISE.

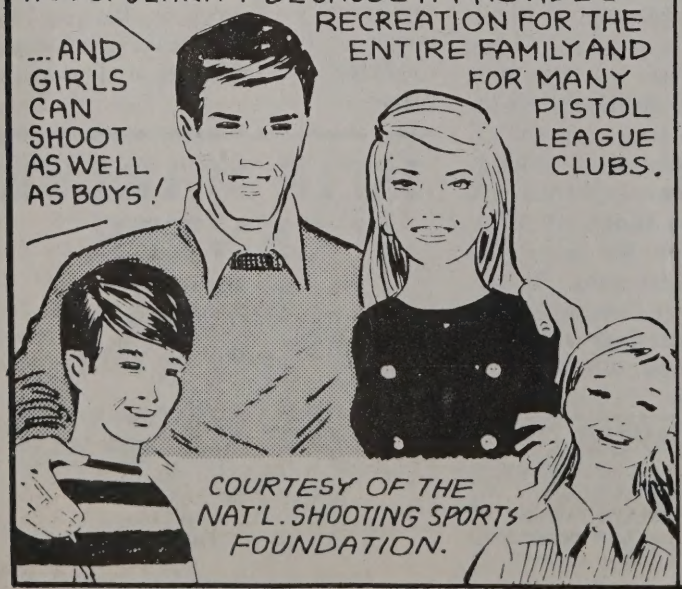


BIG GAME HUNTERS USE A .357 OR .44 MAGNUM

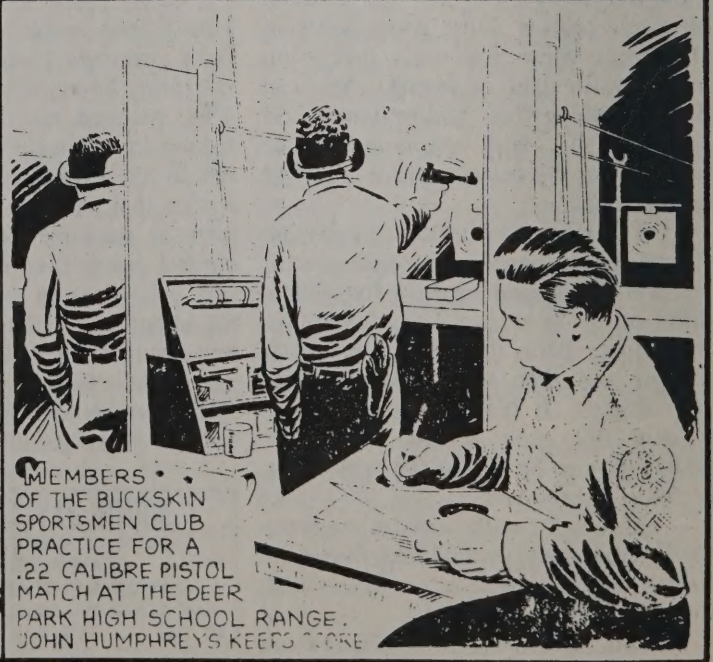
HUNTING WITH A HANDGUN CAN BE DONE SAFELY WITH A .22 CAL. PISTOL ANYWHERE YOU CAN HUNT WITH A .22 RIFLE FOR SMALL GAME SUCH AS RABBITS AND SQUIRRELS.

HANDGUN SHOOTING IS INCREASING IN POPULARITY BECAUSE IT PROVIDES RECREATION FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY AND FOR MANY PISTOL LEAGUE CLUBS.

...AND GIRLS CAN SHOOT AS WELL AS BOYS!



COURTESY OF THE NAT'L. SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION.



MEMBERS OF THE BUCKSKIN SPORTSMEN CLUB PRACTICE FOR A .22 CALIBRE PISTOL MATCH AT THE DEER PARK HIGH SCHOOL RANGE. JOHN HUMPHREYS KEEPS SCORE

DIVING

By JIM McEVOY

DIVING

The basic asset for hunting underwater is the diver's own skill. Couple skill with good physical conditioning, plus perserverance and you have a successful underwater hunter. The word skill encompasses a great deal. It means you must know and understand the quarry you are pursuing, just what its habits are and when and where you will find it. But this is not the total picture. Knowing and using the proper equipment is another part of underwater hunting, too. This is where the spear gun comes into play.

There are many types and models of spear guns available to the diver. Each one having its own distinct advantages and disadvantages; knowing them will help you to acquire the best gun suited to your needs. It still is the diver behind the gun that determines success or failure, but the proper gun will add up on the plus side in the overall picture.

How do we go about choosing a gun? What do we look for? First, we have to determine what and where we will be hunting. Will we be hunting in open water, with good visibility? In this case we could use a fairly large gun with plenty of power. In the open water we would normally be hunting large fish. Here is where we need power but just how much will be determined by visibility as well as the size of the fish. The lower the visibility, the less power needed.

If you are working in and around jetties in close quarters you cannot use a large gun effectively. It will hinder you in your movements and may cause you to miss your target. In close quarters you do not have the room to swing a large gun. If you do fire you may hit a rock or other object causing damage to the spear point or shaft. Another consideration is the ricocheting action. The power of the gun is determined to some extent by the diver's own strength, especially with the pneumatic types. The stronger the pneumatic air chamber is pressurized, the stronger the diver has to be to load the unit. These types of guns can only deliver the power you are capable of putting into it. With the pneumatic, you have to press the shaft down into the barrel, causing the air chamber to compress, all in one movement. The total compression of the air chamber determines the power of the spear shaft when released.

The power in the rubber guns can be increased by, adding extra rubbers. You do not have to use full loading force in one movement. You can load one sling at a time. As you add slings, you increase the power. The total power is increased by degrees and does not have to be done all in one movement.

Even a maximum charged pneumatic gun does not come close to the power of a multiple sling rubber gun. Try to pull three rubber slings simultaneously with the same motion that loads a pneumatic. This will demonstrate the power that the rubber guns can achieve.

ACCURACY - Accuracy is better achieved by the pneumatic rather than the rubber gun. This is because the spear shaft is guided out through an enclosed barrel, plus the driving action is even and straight. With the rubber gun the spear has a chance to wobble on the way out of the gun. The changing tension of the slings can increase this wobble action. The rubber slings pull the spear forward while the pneumatic pushes. The pushing in an enclosed chamber gains the accuracy. If the exact tension is not on both sides of the rubber sling, it will retract unevenly causing the shaft to be pulled out of the gun favoring one side or another. A grooved barrel on a rubber gun does help to guide the shaft and eliminates some of the wobble, which to some extent increases the accuracy of the rubber gun. The accuracy of both the pneumatic and the rubber gun are not too far apart to make any great difference, but should be considered.

HANDLING - The pneumatics are very streamlined and handle well in the water. The rubber gun does not move as well. The rubbers have a tendency to resonate when moved through the water. Trying to swing a rubber gun from one side to the other would be slower and would require more effort. The rubbers cause resistance. This resistance can keep the diver from making a fast maneuver with the gun, which is necessary at times. This resistance also helps to fatigue the diver's arms and wrists when carrying the gun over a long period of time. Pointing the gun into a current would either push the gun up or down, according to the angle the gun faces the current. The diver will need more wrist strength to hold the gun in position. The pneumatic does not present these problems. It has no vibration of rubbers or shaft.

BALANCE - Generally the pneumatic has a better feel and balance. The handle and trigger assembly is positioned around the middle of the gun. Your wrist is only balancing the gun weight and not holding it up. When the handle and trigger are placed toward the back, the wrist has to support the weight. Most rubber guns have the handle toward the back, thus do not have good balance.

LOADING - To get the maximum from the pneumatic, the diver has to have a lot of strength in his arms. He has to put all the power into one loading action. The power he receives from the gun depends greatly on him. However, the one loading action is an advantage; it takes less time and bother. You push the shaft down an enclosed barrel, there are no rubbers to move out of the way of the shaft and the line is also out of the way. With a rubber gun the line sometimes entangles around the rubbers and this takes time to straighten out. Each rubber sling is loaded separately, taking extra time. Generally a pneumatic can be loaded in half the amount of time it takes to load a double slinged rubber gun.

DEPENDABILITY - Both type guns can be considered fairly dependable. However, the rubber gun is much simpler in construction and has less chance of something malfunctioning. Its simplicity allows it to withstand abusive use; dropping it in the sand, not washing it after a dive, etc. Sand in the barrel of the pneumatic would ruin the gun. Rusting of the internal barrel is another problem. The pneumatic demands more care, so it is in one sense less dependable.

COST - Power for power, the rubber gun is the least expensive.

Let's summarize the advantages and disadvantages of both guns. The pneumatic is streamlined, easier to handle and carry underwater, accurate, well balanced, quicker to load. Disadvantages are limited power, more maintenance and high price.

The rubber gun is simpler in construction, requires low maintenance, withstands abusive use, can achieve the most power and is lower priced. The disadvantages are it requires more time to load, creates more fatigue when carrying underwater, is less maneuverable, less accurate and generally has a bad balance and feel.

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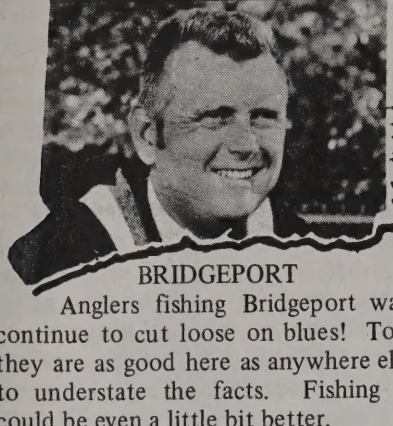


CONNECTICUT SCENE

BY DICK ALLEY

BRIDGEPORT

Anglers fishing Bridgeport waters continue to cut loose on blues! To say they are as good here as anywhere else is to understate the facts. Fishing here could be even a little bit better.

Sto at the Sportsmans Den becomes more enthusiastic every time I call, and no wonder. Last Monday night the blues pushed the bait right onto the rocks. At Pleasure Beach, fishing the harbor side, Jack Eck landed 47 choppers on spinning tackle in as many casts. The shore-caught blues average 6 to 8 lbs.

Roy at Bob's Bait wasn't any less enthusiastic, reporting another big, big Thursday morning, with signs that the fish are getting bigger. A pair of 14 pounders and several in the 12 to 13 lb. range were paraded in there after a big morning at St. Mary's Seawall.

WESTPORT

"Why does everybody walk off the beach when daylight disappears?" This was the question asked by Ed Boland at the Westport Tackle Shop. He pointed out, and rightly so, that were these anglers to switch to swimming plugs, they'd probably catch fish well into the night, and he's so, so right. I arrived at Burial Hill on Thursday morning to see the fish already piled on the beach. Bruce Williams had fifteen. Doc Skerlick came late and took a quartet. At the tackle shop, Bill Mraz came in and reported taking a school bass mixed in with the blues at Compo Beach, and Mike James also brought in a 14 lb. striper, taken at Cockenoe Island while bluefishing. Milton Peart tallied 16 choppers in a mornings fishing. Switching to the bottom species, a Mr. Strauss, who moors his sailboat in the "hole" off Longshore, took 18 flats on a handline in a mornings fishing. Snappers, though mostly small, are still cooperating for the youngsters fishing the Post Road Bridge.

NEW HAVEN

Walt at Outdoor Sports tells us the fishing is so good it's become a regular news item on the Ron Rohmer show over WELI radio in New Haven. He offers reports 6:30 AM to 8:30 AM daily. One angler came in with what must be a near record catch of 54 blues from the surf at Savin Rock, all in one trip. While the beach is hot from Savin Rock to Milford, the Thomason Bridge fishing is still stopping traffic, and boatmen are reaping a harvest in the Quinnipiac River. For a change of pace, Walt advises trying the porgies at Stony Creek. Two man boat teams have been averaging 50 to 100 of these scrappers daily. Most run around 2 lbs.

STAMFORD

Pat Chirillo, when he's not working at Pat's Marina, has managed to earn the reputation of one of the finest striped bass men in this area. He was close to tears when I called, having spent three hours a couple of nights before throwing every lure in his tackle box at a school of breaking stripers only a short distance from the dock. While he got drenched from the spray they kicked up, and did manage one 10 lb. fish, he was one frustrated angler. Just to prove they were bass, Ron Kowalsky, who specializes in trolling the Smilin' Bill, came in with three just over twenty pounds.

Blues are everywhere. John Burke nailed eighteen to 12 lbs., casting off the breakwater. Snappers share the spotlight with mackerel off the dock. The mackerel are hitting the Kastmaster, and are averaging 13 to 14 inches in length. Porgies are hitting, and blacks are making a fair early season showing.

MAMARONECK

Fishing is still sporadic in these waters, with blacks the best bet at the moment. Fred says the fish are running to 4 lbs., and many more would have been taken if weather hadn't forced a closing on Sunday. One occasional blue taken just before I called scaled 11¼ lbs.

GREENWICH

Blues really opened up here. They were just in time to make everyone happy in a one day Bluefish Tourney at Drenckhahn's Boat Basin. Winner with a total catch of 27 choppers up to 14¾ lbs. was Tommy Fujitani. The largest fish of the contest scaled 15 lbs. 1 oz., but we don't know who caught it. Ernire Drenckhahn himself came in second with a total catch of 24 blues.

Several spinfishermen scored. Dick Poskus took a 15 pounder on a Rebel, while Leo Rota flipper a popper at Greenwich Point and landed a 15 pounder in the surf. Pete Earl used light line to capture a 13 lb. blue, and Phil Schultz caught 14 choppers, returning 10 to the water. Nine of these were taken on 4 lb. test line, and the largest scaled 13½ lbs. This was returned, and would have beaten the present spinfishing record for that line category. Next time Phil! While porgies here average a pound, there are plenty of them. Snappers also reign in the rivers.

DARIEN

Blues reported everywhere in these waters, but not providing those spectacular feeding scenes. However, showing up at one of the likely spots and casting blind is an almost-sure winner. Snappers are averaging 6 to 7 inches at the mouth of the Five-Mile River, with youngsters from 7 to 70 having a ball. One veteran fisherman and his spouse go out nightly in a small dinghy. Their largest catch so far is 180 baby blues. Bob Keelip has been taking the bigger blues on the fly rod. If it continues to grow in this area Darien may have their own chapter of American Salt Water Fly-Rodders.

NORWALK

Blues have been up and down at Hickory Bluff, with snappers in the limelight. Porgies and blacks are also sporadic and stray mackerel and weaks are hitting on occasions.

At Four Winds a couple of striper made the scene. George DiScalza weighed in a 25½ lb. lunker, and Joe Tartazelli had a bass weighing 20½ lbs. It's a good sign. Bob Utz still raves about the morning he arrived at Cockenoe Bay at daybreak and saw the entire area alive with blues. He was all alone for a half-hour and had a ball.

John Mola told of a New Jersey angler who has since returned to that state with a 16 lb. 3 oz. blue. Brother Vin is still averaging forty fish a day trolling the triple rigs in the deep water around 11B. He gives mucho credit to the depthfinder. Other fishermen have been blasting with poppers around Sheffield Island, Greens Ledge and other Norwalk waters. Action starts around 4:00 PM daily.

Snappers are big and thick in the area of Manresa Power Plant, Wilson P and Bell Island, and providing excellent sport on the small poppers. Flats, blacks and porgies are also continuing to hit well.

COVER PHOTO

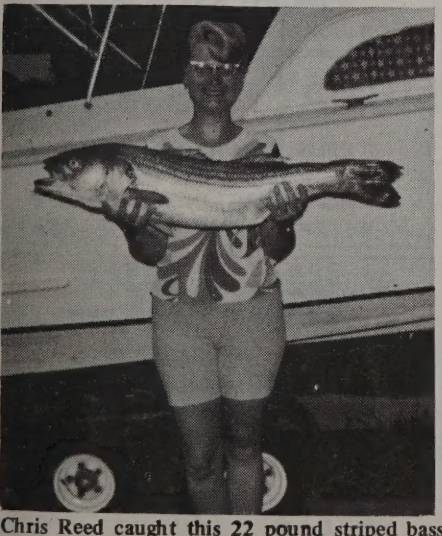
A bluefish is hauled over the rail aboard Capt. Artie White's "Angler II."

CITY ISLAND

Rod of Jack's Bait & Tackle reports that the bluefish are going wild at Execution Light and Stepping Stone Light. These choppers are big, running from 8 to 16 lbs. Poppers and bunker baits are best. These fish are chasing the bunkers to the surface and fishermen using poppers are knocking them silly. When too many boats converge on an area they will sound and cut bunkers will have to be used. Sal Jeffery of the Bronx caught 40 blues on Monday. Sal took most of his fish on the Creek Chub popper. There are plenty of school sized bass around. Andy Storace of the Bronx fishes the Harts Island area almost every day and returns with 5 to 8 bass in the 3 to 5 lb. range. Trolling a spinner-worm combo turns the trick here. The blackfishing is improving every day. In the bait department, fiddlers are best. The flounder fishing hasn't gotten off the ground at this writing. Snapper fishing is excellent all over. The kids are having a ball off the docks with these ½ lb. blues.

HEMPSTEAD HARBOR

The Glenwood Marine & Tackle Shop reported pretty poor fishing in this area. The weekend saw a scattering of blues but nothing like it should be for this time of year. The striper scene is even bleaker. The snapper fishing is good near the powerhouse. These tiny blues are just that, tiny. Weather stopped most of the bottom fishermen from going out this weekend. Last week there was a flurry of porgy action around the harbor.



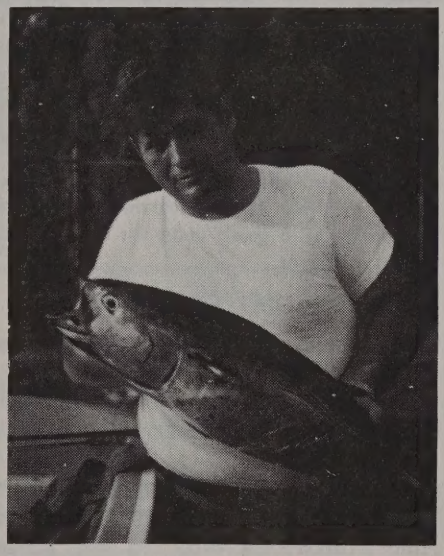
Chris Reed caught this 22 pound striped bass while bunker dunking in Hempstead Harbor. She also got a 18 lb. bass and a 8 lb. blue. Her husband, Bob (a sharpie) got "zip."

BAYVILLE

Mike Pump of Pump's Fishing Station reported the bluefishing remains good at Center Island Reef. Blues up to 8 lbs. are being caught by trollers and boat casters. During the evening hours, blues are showing up along beach areas. There are plenty of small sand porgies at Center Island Reef and Oak Neck Point. Anglers are catching as many as they want. A few blackfish are starting to be caught at the Reef.

COLD SPRING HARBOR

Les of Vet's Fishing Station reported the bluefishing at Cooper's Bluff was very good voer last weekend. Anglers experienced excellent catches there by trolling and jigging. There are a few porgies at Buoy 17. Blackfish are starting to hit by the lighthouse.



This 18 lb. bonito was caught by Phil Beck off Eaton Neck Point in the L.I. Sound.

NORTHPORT

Mr. Hahn of the Chainlocker Bait & Tackle reported blues from 6 to 8 lbs. are being caught throughout Northport Bay. Trolling red surgical tubes deep is producing good catches of choppers. Porgies and kingfish are mixed together at Northport Bay. Snapper fishing remains fair. Striper fishing has not started as of yet.

SMITHTOWN

Bob Danks of the Beacon Fishing Station reported blues from 4 to 14 lbs. are being trolled with surgical tubes. Popping plugs are also producing choppers. This action took place last week off of the golf course at Sunken Meadow. At the Nissequogue River, blues from 2 to 4 lbs. are all over the place. Snapper fishing at the present time is excellent most anywhere. Your best bet for the Smithtown River at the present time, blues.

SMITHTOWN

Lure manufacturer, Mickey Chiarenza called in to report that fishing got off to a bad start on Saturday but late in the day the schools of bluefish moved in to feed on the acres of bait that took up residence in Smithtown Bay. The unpredictable bluefish are moving in very erratically and it's just a matter of being there when the action breaks loose. On Sunday the blues came in to feed in the early morning and then again in the evening. A dozen blues up to 10 lbs. was not an uncommon catch. When the blues are not on a feed they can be picked at by trolling deep a little further offshore. surfcasters are getting their licks in by waiting on the shore until the blues come into casting range. The surfcasters are also picking at a few schoolie bass along Short Beach. The small bass seem to prefer small Rebels.

PORT JEFFERSON

Charlie Caraftis of the Caraftis Fishing Station reported the bluefishing at Port Jefferson Harbor is excellent. Trolling and casting plugs is producing good catches of blues from 4 to 10 lbs. Bay areas are loaded with snappers and you catch as many as you want. Fishing for weakfish and kingfish is good by the lighting company and at the Narrows. Fishing for sand porgies is excellent. They seem to be everywhere.

Capt. John Fischer of the charter boat "Betty W" called to report that they chummed for blues last Friday night with the members of the Comsequogue Anglers of Port Jefferson. They had a good catch of blues from 4 to 10 lbs. Keith Nielson of Port Jefferson was the pool winner with a 10 pounder. For the first time we had sharks in the slick but how big they were we don't know. The fishing at Crane's Neck was good, however, it was poor last weekend due to the weather.

MOUNT SINAI

Ralph Davenport of Ralph's Fishing Station reported that due to the weather last weekend, the Mount Sinai area produced little action. During the week blues from 4 to 8 lbs. were caught at Buoys 9 and 11. Trolling and casting plugs produced good action. There are plenty of sand porgies around. A few blacks are starting to show. Striper fishing locally has started.

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Rocky Point teachers Richard Russo and Dave Gruner ran into a school of bluefish off Rocky Point and Miller Place. The 22 bluefish, up to 7½ lbs. hit ½ oz. poppers. The blues surfaced about 4:30 in the afternoon and were still on top, beating on bait, where the fishermen left the scene at 7:00 p.m.

NEW SUFFOLK

Sal Loria of Capt. Marty's Fishing Station reported that weakfish and kingfish are at Roses Grove. Porgies are plentiful at the North and South Race. Roosevelt Scott, James Murray, Joe Rosebury, Clifton Millian and Luke Negron of Elizabeth, New Jersey caught over 500 porgies at the North Race last Saturday. There are plenty of blues from 2 to 4 lbs. for trollers at the South Race. Striper fishing is just getting started. Blowfish are now located all over bay areas.

John Mergerson & Eddit King fished the South Race out of Capt. Marty's Fishing Station for this pile of porgies.

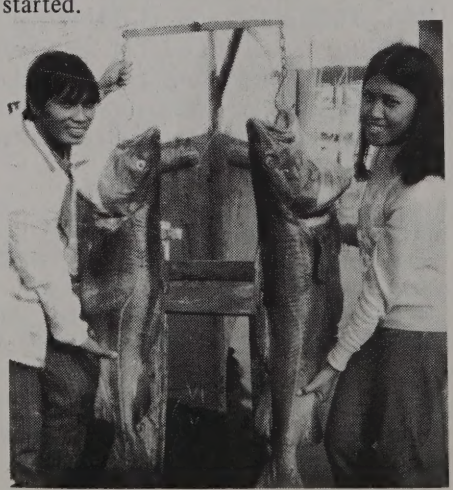
GREENPORT

Ed Rosenberg, of Riverhead, told us. that along with his brother Herman they fished with Capt. Bill Jensen on the "Wilhelric" out of Greenport, on Wednesday, September 15th. All on board had a good day with a basket selection. Porgies up to 1½ lbs. Blowfish, blackfish and two over the legal size fluke. The main fare was blackfish and Ed took the pool with a seven pounder weighed in at Mitchel's Dock. All blacks were of good size, not over a half dozen fish were put back. The fishing was done off Gardeners Island and the Ruins, a real beautiful body of clean water.

Herb & Cookie Silow caught 2 bushels of blackfish up to 8 lbs. They fished the Orient Point Lighthouse with green crabs for bait. Photo by Port of Egypt.

SOUTHOLD - ORIENT POINT

Bill Lieblein of the Port of Egypt Fishing Station reported that fishing was hampered by high winds last weekend, however, during the week, fishing in general was good. Weakfishing at the Brickyard, Beixedon, Buoy 16 of Noyack Bay and Fanning Point remains good. Mrs. Rosalind DiBlasi of Bronxville, N.Y. caught the largest weakfish last week. It weighed in at 9 lbs. 14 ozs. Bluefishing at the Gut, the Race and the rip remains good. Porgy fishing remains good. Blackfish from 2 to 5 lbs. are being caught at Orient Point. Blackfishing there is just getting started.



Rick Padagas and his girlfriend fished aboard the "Peconic Queen II" for these codfish.

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SOUTHSIDE REPORTS
MONTAUK TO FREEPORT by BOB LEE

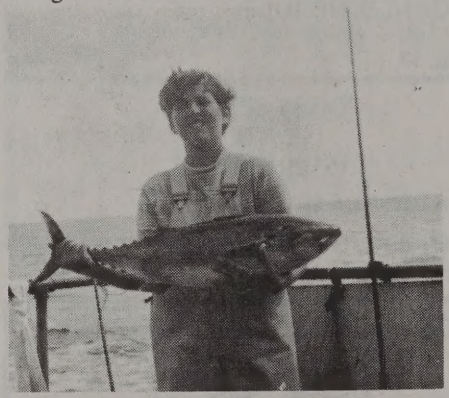
MONTAUK

Capt. Bud Dorman, skipper of the "Viking Skipper," reports that fishing around the Block Island Grounds is excellent. A mixed bag of cod, pollack, and bluefish is being taken. The pool cod is generally in the 30 to 40 lb. range. The darker red cod are now being caught, indicating that the fall run has started. The bluefish are big, many going 18 to 19 lbs. in weight.

Capt. George Glas, skipper of the "Hel-Cat," reports that bluefishing is just tremendous out there. On Sunday, the Capt. concentrated on these choppers and his passengers had some fast and furious fishing. The high hook for the day was 22 blues up to 18 lbs. Many fish were in the 15 lb. class. The Hel-Cat will go for these big blues during the weekdays and the weekends will be devoted to cod at Coxes Ledge. Capt. Glas explained the method used for these bluefish. It's called heaving and hauling, a sort of semi bottom fishing. They take short, fast drifts in the Race, with fish baits. The blues start coming like mackerel with this method. "My customers are really enjoying this type of fishing," said the Capt.

Capt. George McTurck, skipper of the charter boat "Sportfisher," reports the bluefishing is holding up very well. Striped bass are being caught with more regularity. Trolling wire and tubes is the proven method. Occasionally when the tides are running strong, diamond jigs get the fish. One of the captain's fares (no name given) latched onto a 49 lb. striped bass jigging a diamond jig.

Bob Killey of the Montauk Marine Basin reports they had a pretty fair fishing weekend, considering the weather. There are plenty of bluefish from Shagwong to the Light and at the Buoy 9 area. There is some scattered action on stripers along the beach on the South Shore, at an area known as Jones Reef. The best time to fish this area is when the surf is not running too high. The porgy fishing is excellent at Great Eastern Rock. This fishing is at its peak right now, said Bob, Weakfishing is holding up in Fort Pond Bay. Offshore shark fishing was very good this weekend. We had blue sharks up to 250 lbs. The Makos were slightly smaller, running up to 200 lbs. The boatmen did well on school tuna and bonita during the week. The weekend was a total washout as far as those two species were concerned. Coxes Ledge is still producing plenty of cod. Some boats are fishing the Block Island waters and are having excellent results.



David Geller caught this 14 lb. false albacore in the waters southwest of Block Island. David fished aboard Capt. Bud Dorman's "Viking Skipper" out of Montauk.

MONTAUK

Fred Shay of the East Lake Fishing Station reported that the porgy fishing is nothing short of fantastic. The fishermen are returning to the docks with bushel baskets of porgies up to 2½ lbs. Most anglers are using clam baits. The best fishing grounds are Gardiners Island, Great Eastern Rock and the area known as the Pocketbook. The flounder fishing is off to a pretty decent start, Fred commented. The Fort Pond Bay fishing grounds are best for these flatties. Bluefishing is slow and so is the striper fishing. Plenty of snappers are being caught right off Fred's dock.

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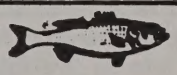

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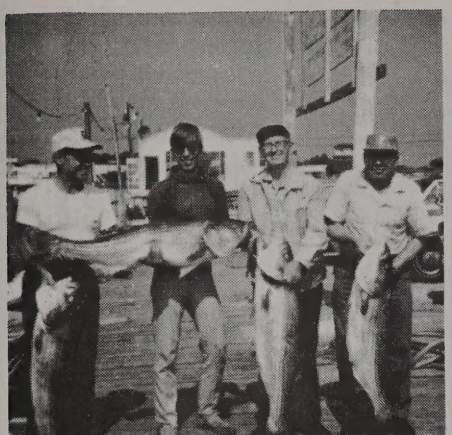
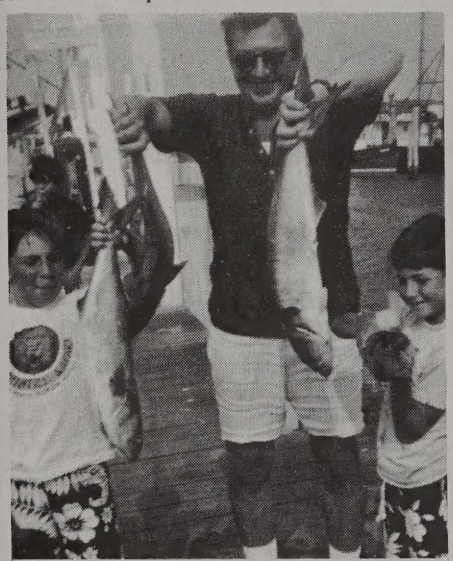
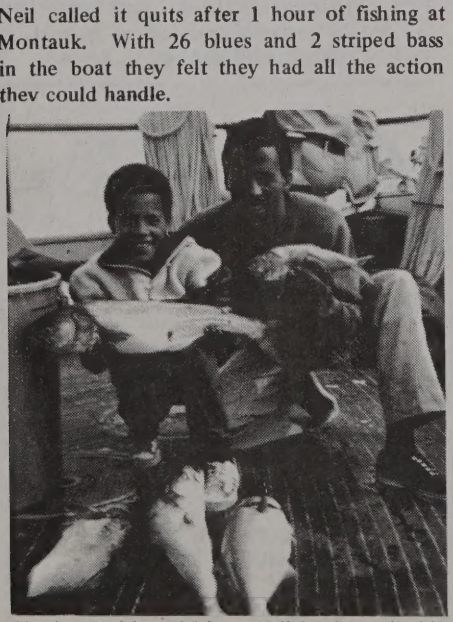


Rudy Verderber, Mark Kern, Nick Brando, and Lou Wolf caught stripers from 30 to 40 lbs. They fished aboard Cap. Nick Kuzin's "Tiger Shark" out of Montauk. Photo by Cross Bay Rod & Gun Shop.



Dick Eskenazi, his wife and his sons Steven and Neil called it quits after 1 hour of fishing at Montauk. With 26 blues and 2 striped bass in the boat they felt they had all the action they could handle.



Charles Smith and his son Michael caught blue fish from 6 to 8 lbs. aboard Montauk's "Jigger II."

HAMPTON BAYS

Frank's Fishing Station reports that the fishermen are getting decent catches of weakfish by drifting squid at buoys 17 and 19. Boats anchored in this area are getting kingfish on worms and squid. One pound fish are the average. Flounder fishing has started at the Basket area. These fish are taking bloodworms and are still a little too small. The fluke fishing is finished.

SAG HARBOR

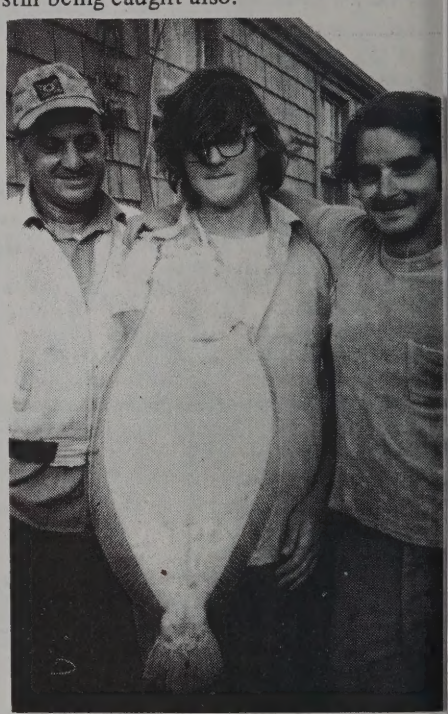
Dan McLane of the Bayview Tackle & Bait reports that weakfishing and porgy fishing is excellent. Drifting worms or squid in Smith's Cove and the South Ferry gets the anglers a mixed bag. The porgies are very big, running from ¾'s of a pound to 1 lb. in size. The weaks are slightly larger, running in the 1 to 2 lb. range. There is a large population of blowfish at Northwest Harbor for anyone interested. The big dock at Sag Harbor has some excellent snapper fishing and weakfishing. The best time is early mornings or evenings but if the tide is at flood during the afternoon, it produces some good fishing with these two species.

NOYACK

Barbara Smith of the Noyac Marina called in to tell us, "fishing remains great." Harry and Barbara Smith, along with Helen Jacobsen fished for two hours on Wednesday and came up with 26 fish, most of which were weaks. They fished squid and worms at Buoy 16. On Saturday, Mike Albert, Sr. and Jr., fished the waters off the Monestary. They caught 60 weaks from 1½ to 3 lbs. Sunday's fishing was a bit better with the weaks running somewhat larger. Russ Brown, Bob Bajan and Ed Schmidt boated well over 100 weakfish with a good many in the 4 lb. class. They, too, fished the waters off the Monestary. Bill Fales fished with the Gaudiosi family. They came in with a good bag of fish including blue claw crabs. Carl Neumann and Lou Worst caught 95 weaks and 12 snapper blues from the waters between the Monestary and Long Beach. Monday the fishing continued at the same pace, even through the rain, with John Will and Quinto Podesta coming in with an excellent catch of weakfish to 3½ lbs. They fished off Long Beach.

SHINNECOCK

Mickey Altenkirch of Altenkirch's Tackle Shop reports that the surfcasters are latching onto stripers at the inlet. Plugs and tin lures are both getting fish. Bluefish are sometimes mixed in with the bass. Boatmen are getting bluefish on wire and tubes at the inlet, if the weather allows. There are some decent sized snappers being caught in the canal. Weakfishing remains excellent in Shinnecock Bay. The open boat "Capt. Clark" is doing a job on the porgies in Peconic Bay. Mickey said that the Capt. Clark's customers are walking off the boat with sacks full of these fish. Weakfish, although not as numerous as before, are still being caught also.



John, John Jr., and Robert Dellagatta fished Moriches Inlet in a Skidmore skiff, this 9 lb 6 oz. fluke topped their catch.

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MORICHES

Bob Seifert of the Silly Lily Fishing Station reports that fishing in general is fair. Weakfish are still taking squid baits from a drifting boat. Occasionally the shore casters latch into one. Kingfish are being caught also. The blowfish population is tremendous. They are everywhere and are of pretty good size. The best areas for these three species is the Coast Guard Station and Buoys 36 to 39. Flounder fishing has started, but these flatties are just a little too small to keep. Crabbing is slow but is expected to pick up within the next two weeks. "They came in in force about that time last year," said Bob.

Bill and Eleanor Scaduto fished at Bouys 31 & 32 out of Cerullo Bros. Fishing Station for these kingfish and flounders.

MASTIC

Ronnie Keenan of Keenan's Fishing Station reports fishing is still very slow. The bay is full of small kingfish. Squid and worms take these fish just about any place. One bright spot is the blue claw crabs. They are anywhere and everywhere. Killie rings and crab traps baited with bunker are about the best methods, said Ronnie. The snapper fishing is slow. The Buoy 17 area has a few and they are of good size. The flounder fishing hasn't really gotten off the ground.

Glenn Schneider weighed this 12 lb. 2 oz. doormat fluke at the South Bay Fishing Station. The big fluke was caught on the Bayside of the Fire Island Lighthouse on squid baits.

SAYVILLE

Vito Intini of the South Bay Fishing Station reports that the weakfish are still around, also there are some fluke to be had. The best areas are one mile south of Browns Creek Jetty. During the week, Richard Nani of West Islip and a friend caught 52 weaks at this area. Many of these fish were in the 2½ lb. class. Hugh Bauers of East Islip is still leading the field in our weakfish contest, said Vito, and it doesn't look like his 2¾ lb. weak will be topped. Blue claws are very big and plentiful and they can be caught just about everywhere.

CAPTREE

Al Kappauf of the Captree Bait Station reports that the pier fishermen are having some success with small weaks and kings. They are taking them on worms and squid, said Al. Snappers and blowfish help to round out the pier fisherman's bag. The open and charter boats are still fishing east near Heckscher State Park and LaSalle Academy. They are getting mixed bags of weaks, kings and blowfish. Boats working the inlet are getting fair catches of fluke. The open boats "Capt. Joseph", "Capt. Scotty" and "Speedy" are heading offshore for bluefish and are doing exceptionally well, said Al. The surf has been quiet all week; just one striper has been weighed in.

Francis Talluto, Joseph Gallitelli and Christopher Talluto pose over a mixed catch of kingfish, weakfish and blowfish. The boys fished the Great South Bay off Patchogue over the Labor Day weekend aboard the "Sik Kol."

BABYLON

Augie Principe of Augie's Bait & Tackle reports that blackfishing is picking up at Kismet Beach and Oak Beach. Fiddler crabs turn the trick here. Some decent catches of fluke were made over the weekend at the Coast Guard Station. The boatmen are doing well on weakfish near the Captree Bridge. Ted Casolo of Babylon trolled 42 weaks on spoons at this area. Charlie Paul, also of Babylon, fished West Island and the Bay Shore Channel on Saturday and was rewarded with a mixed bag of weaks, kings and snappers. The Babylon Town Dock has excellent snapper fishing. Weaks, kings and blowfish are being caught from the dock also. No special baits are being

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used. Squid, worms and clam are all getting their share of fish. There is very good albacore fishing offshore at the Lightship Buoy. A. Dreier, aboard his boat the "Gypsy Queen," braved the sloppy inlet on Sunday and had an excellent catch of albacore at the Lightship Buoy area.

WEST BABYLON

Charley Crowley of Charlie's Fishing Station reports that weakfishing continues to be excellent in the deep waters of the State Channel. Both sides of the Captree Bridge have some excellent weakfishing too. Drifting squid close to the abutments is turning the trick here. The porgy fishing is picking up at this area also. The crabbing is excellent all over the bay. Traps baited with bunkers is taking crabs off the docks. Boatmen are using hand nets in the flats when they are on top.

LINDENHURST

John Schaefer of Charlie's Bait & Tackle reports that Bill Marvin and Norm Price of the Squaw Island Fishing Club had an excellent catch of albacore and one 4 lb. bonita on Sunday. These fishermen trolled spoons south of the Fire Island Inlet in 85 ft. of water. Carl Christ and Capt. George Mussler, aboard the "Party Time," caught a 9 lb. 10 oz. albacore on a whale-bone lure. Carl and George fished south of the Inlet also. Stripers and blues came through the inlet on Wednesday and provided some scattered action for the surfcasters at the Sore Thumb Jetty and Cedar Beach. The bay fishing is fair. Weakfish and kings are being caught in deep water around the Captree Bridge and the State Channel. Crabbing can only be rated excellent everywhere. Blackfishing has picked up considerably at the artificial wreck off Ocean Beach. The snapper fishing is good at the Wellwood Ave. docks. These tiny choppers are getting bigger every day.

SEAFORD

Dell's Fishing Station reported that crabbing is outstanding in the canals and bays. The fishermen are returning to the docks with more and more flounders, so it looks like the flounder season is starting. Blackfishing has picked up at the bridges. The fluke are still around, however, this fishing can only be termed spotty. Snappers and weaks are being caught around the bridges also. Porgy fishing is good close to the Coast Guard Station. Phil Verdi and Kenny Smelcer used squid and worms at this area on Saturday and accounted for 30 nice sized porgies. In addition to the porgies, they caught 6 blowfish and 4 flounders.

WANTAGH

Frank Hecker of the Causeway Bait & Tackle reports that there has been some good catches of fluke in the State Channel this past week. John Walters of Wantagh has been having excellent catches of weakfish for more than a week now. John's largest fish to date is a 6¼ pounder. Where and how he is getting these fish was not devulged. Snapper fishing in Zach's Bay is excellent.

FREEPORT

The Freeport Cold Storage reports that the fishing isn't what it should be, mainly because of the weather. Anglers who do brave the weather are finding weakfish and kingfish in Reynolds Channel, the Coast Guard Station and Swift Creek. Blowfish are abundant just about anywhere. The fluke fishing is holding up very well from the Coast Guard Station to the Inlet. Drifting squid and killies is best. Crabbing is excellent all over. The offshore party boats are getting into some fast bluefish action at the Cholera Banks. These fish are a nice size, running from 6 to 8 lbs. The striped bass fishing was very slow this past week.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed Wardle of Ed's Fishing Station reports that there is quite a variety of fish around. The blackfishing is excellent at the jetties, the Meadowbrook Bridge and the T Wreck. These blacks prefer fiddler crab baits and they average in weight from 2 to 4 lbs. The T Wreck, which is offshore, holds some larger fish. Fluke were caught over the weekend. Reynolds Channel near Buoys 16 and 18 is the best area. Killies and squid are the baits. There is a good showing of sand porgies at Buoy 16 off the golf course. Bloodworms and squid are both catching. Weakfish can be found in this area also. The kingfishing is good in Reynolds Channel. They aren't big, about 1 lb. average. Worms turn the trick here. Snapper fishing is outstanding all over. The crabbing is good and no special skill is required to fill a bushel basket. There is some spotty striped bass action at Fundy Bay and the flats in the early monrings and evenings. Popping plugs get 10% of these fish. They are schoolies averaging 3 to 8 pounds.

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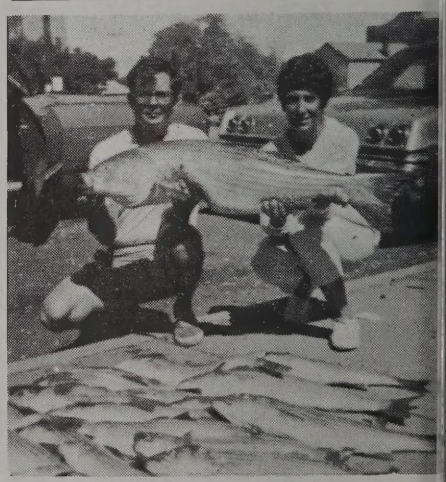

Joe Lee and Rosalie Maggiore caught the 18 striped bass at the Tin Can Grounds. Tl bass weighed 8 to 30 lbs. on the Bay End Do scales.

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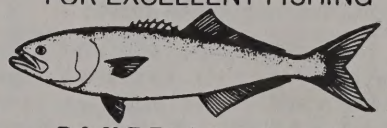

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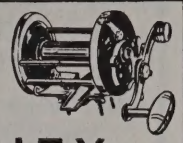

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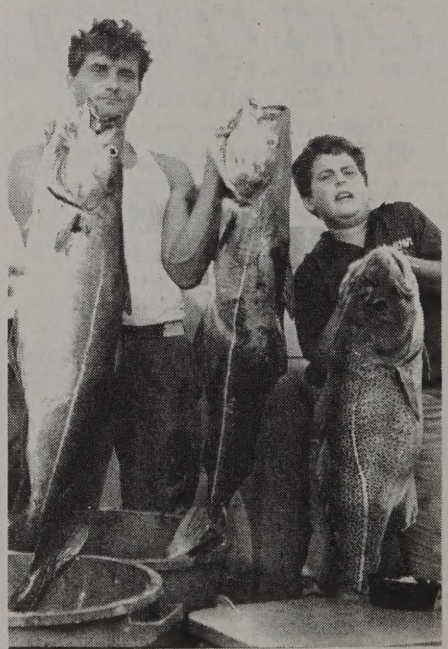

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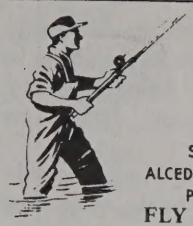

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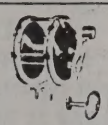

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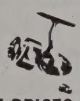

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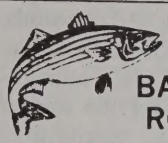

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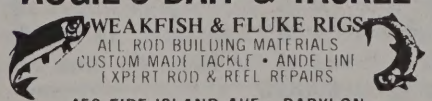

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ATLANTIC BEACH TO MANASQUAN
By Greg Beacher

ATLANTIC BEACH

Leon Miller of Henning's Fishing Station reports bluefishing locally is very poor and at times non-existent. Over the last two weeks, only a few blues have been caught. Even boats fishing offshore are having their bluefish problems. The only bluefihsing around locally is the excellent snapper fishing. Stripers are starting to show again. A few school sized bass were taken at the Pocket area last week on plugs and clam chum. Fluke fishing remains good throughout the Atlantic Beach area. Jules Grossman of Far Rockaway caught 12 fluke up to 8 lbs. while fishing off the Coast Guard Station last weekend. The Buoy 5 area of Reynolds Channel has the best variety of fish around. Flounders, kingfish, blowfish and sand porgies can be caught there. Weakfish were the ace in the hole for many anglers last weekend. Weaks up to 7 lbs. were caught anywhere from Bay 38th Street towards the Tin Can Grounds. Joe Chvatal of Atlantic Beach proved this by catching 21 weakfish up to 3½ lbs. last Saturday.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The bluefishing, for the second week in a row, is stinko. The bluefishing offshore is still rated as a big hit and miss affair. Only spotty bluefish catches were produced southeast of Cholera Banks and the Klondike. On Saturday, moderate catches were produced at the Shrewsbury Rocks. On Sunday the fishing was poor there, mainly due to the weather. At the present time the main portion of the fishing belongs to the sinker bouncers. Weakfish are being caught at Norton's Point, the Tin Cans, Jamaica Bay and along the Rockaways. Weaks up to 7 lbs. are being caught, with catches varying with the tides. Fluke fishing remains good at Ambrose Cahnnel by Buoy 4 and 4A. Stripers are being caught at the Tin Cans on clam chum and worms at times.

Tuna fishing for the third week straight remains poor at the B.A. Buoy and the Mud Hole. Contestants will have their hands full for the Sheepshead Bay Tuna Club's Invitational Tuna Tournament. Last weekend only two tuna were caught at the B.A. Buoy. There were tuna hooked by party boat anglers, however, they were lost due to stripped reels. As it looks, not too many tuna will be caught during the tournament. It is still expected that a giant tuna will win the tournament. There aren't too many tuna at the Mud Hole, but there are plenty of albacore there. Albacore can be easily located from the Cholera Banks across to the Mud Hole. They are being caught by both trolling and chumming. Only a few bonita are mixed in.

With inshore fishing producing only moderate catches, head boats are looking offshore for action. The "Tampa Iv" and the "Ranger IV" connected for excellent Hudson Canyon tilefishing last weekend Both boats caught over 300 fish per trip. The long ride there and back was well worth the trip as anglers filled up their sacks with tilefish from 5 to 50 pounds. Ambrose Bryan of N.Y.C. was last Sunday's pool winner aboard the Tampa IV with a 48 pounder. Aboard the Ranger IV, Louis Padone of N.Y.C. bagged a 49 pound tilefish to win. Tilefish are not the only in-the-bag results offshore. The wreck fishing for cod and pollack has also gotten off to a good start. Last Wednesday, the Tampa IV, with 12 anglers on board, connected for some 250 cod up to 46 lbs., with the majority of fish caught going to 18 lbs.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny Killoran of Santo's Sport Shop reported small blues from 1 to 1½ lbs. are now located between Fort Wadsworth and Annadale. These blues are being caught best during the early morning hours. Striper fishing is just getting started again. So far the action has been spotty around the Annadale area. There are plenty of small weakfish mixed along with kings and small sand porgies most anywhere. Snapper fishing remains fair and blue claw crabbing is holding strong.

SEA BRIGHT

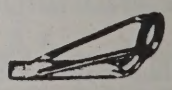
Bluefishing locally is on the slow side. The only action around has been at the Shrewsbury Rocks. Stripers are being caught on bloodworms at the State Park down towards Long Branch. Fluke fishing has really slowed down. It seems this fishing is just about over for the season. Snappers up to a pound are being caught in all bay and inlet areas. Weakfishing along beach and bay areas is spotty. Capt. Whitey Morenz of the "Miss Take II" connected for some excellent albacore fishing at the B.A. Buoy last Sunday. They caught some 60 albacore up to 20 lbs. Carmen Ligiuori was the Miss Take's Sunday pool winner and high hook with 12 albacore. During the day's fishing at the buoy, no tuna were caught or hooked.

MANASQUAN

Harry Conrade of Gates Bait & Tackle reported surf areas running north and south of Manasquan are now loaded with stripers. Surf casters are connecting for stripers running from school size and up to 38 lbs. Clam baits and rigged eels are doing the job and anglers are connecting for plenty of action. Weakfish and blues are mixed together at the inlet. The blues run up to 4 lbs. and the weaks up to 6 lbs. They are being taken best during the tide changes. At Barnegat Ridge, party boats are hitting good catches of blues during both day and night fishing. At times the Ridge produces both blues and albacore mixed together. No tuna catches were reported over last week. Albacore are also showing at the inlet. Fluke fishing locally has slowed down and is about over for the season. Snapper fishing throughout bay, inlet and river areas is excellent at the present time.

SEASIDE PARK

Eddy Blase of Eddy's Bait & Tackle reported both bass and blues are mixed together along surf areas from Seaside Park towards the tip of Island Beach. Bass are hitting both plugs and rigged eels. Blues are hitting both metal lures and mullet strips. Boats trolling for blues and stripers along beach areas are doing just as well while trolling wire line rigs. Weakfishing throughout Barnegat Bay remains good, with weaks up to 5½ lbs. being caught. Bluefishing is good at Barnegat Ridge, however, it should be better for this time of the year. There are plenty of albacore and bonita being trolled offshore. No tuna catches were reported last week. There are plenty of tilefish at the Hudosn Canyon for everyone who tries.



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HIGH TIDE TABLES

SANDY HOOK

DAY	AM	PM
23-Thur.	10:36	10:48
24-Fri.	11:12	11:24
25-Sat.	11:54	--------
26-Sun.	12:06	12:42
27-Mon.	1:06	1:42
28-Tues.	2:06	2:48
29-Wed.	3:18	3:54
30-Thur.	4:46	5:00

on SANDY HOOK

Long Island South Side

	h.	m.
Hempstead Bay		
Deep Creek Meadow	+1	02
Green Island	+1	22
Cuba Island	+1	08
Bellmore, Bellmore Creek	+1	29
Neds Creek	+0	50
Freeport Creek	+0	34
Freeport, Baldwin Bay	+0	38
Long Beach	+0	19
Long Beach, outer coast	- 0	29
Hempstead Bay Continued		
East Rockaway	+0	42
Woodmere, Brosewere Bay	+0	35
East Rockaway Inlet	- 0	06
Jamaica Bay		
Plumb Beach Channel	+0	03
Barren Island, Rockaway Inlet	- 0	00
Beach Channel (bridge)	+0	38
Motts Basin	+0	40
Norton Point, Head of Bay	+0	39
New York International Airport	+0	26
Grassy Bay (bridge)	+0	44
Carnarsie	+0	28
Mill Basin	+0	29
Coney Island	- 0	03
Norton Point, Gravesend Bay	- 0	03
Shinnecock Inlet (ocean)	- 0	50
Ponquogue Bridge, Shinnecock Bay	+1	25
Potunk Point, Moriches Bay	+3	35
Moriches Inlet	- 0	56
Mastic Beach, Moriches Bay	+3	28
Fire Island Breakwater	- 0	39
Democrat Point, Fire Island Inlet	- 0	38
Great South Bay		
Fire Island Light	+0	47
West Fire Island	+2	11
Point O' Woods	+2	28
Bellport, Bellport Bay	+3	44
Patchogue	+3	23
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3	39
Great River, Connetquot River	+3	20
Bay Shore	+2	23
Oak Beach	+2	24
Babylon	+2	12
Gilgo Heading	+2	23
Amityville	+2	21
Biltmore Shores, So. Oyster Bay	+2	05
Jones Inlet (Point Lookout)	- 0	19

WILLETS POINT

DAY	AM	PM
23-Thur.	1:36	1:54
24-Fri.	2:18	2:30
25-Sat.	2:54	3:12
26-Sun.	3:42	4:06
27-Mon.	4:36	5:00
28-Tues.	5:36	6:00
29-Wed.	6:42	7:12
30-Thur.	7:54	8:24

on WILLETS POINT

Long Island Sound

	h.	m.
Port Chester	- 0	09
Rye Beach	- 0	14
Mamaroneck	- 0	08
New Rochelle	- 0	13
Davids Island	- 0	02
City Island	- 0	03
Throggs Neck	+0	02
Whitestone	+0	02
Old Ferry Point	+0	04
College Point, Flushing Bay	+0	20
Hewlett Point	- 0	03
Port Washington, Manhasset Bay	- 0	01
Execution Rocks	- 0	06
Glen Cove, Hempstead Harbor	- 0	11

ADD 6 HOURS FOR LOW TIDE

BRIDGEPORT

DAY	AM	PM
23-Thur.	1:54	2:06
24-Fri.	2:36	2:48
25-Sat.	3:18	3:36
26-Sun.	4:06	4:30
27-Mon.	5:12	5:30
28-Tues.	6:12	6:36
29-Wed.	7:18	7:36
30-Thur.	8:18	8:36

on BRIDGEPORT

Long Island Sound

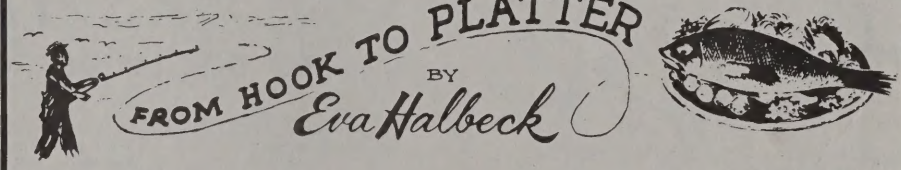
	h.	m.
Oyster Bay		
Oyster Bay Harbor	+0	04
Bayville Bridge	+0	09
Cold Spring Harbor	+0	04
Eatons Point	- 0	01
Lloyd Harbor ent. Huntington	- 0	01
Northport, Northport Bay	- 0	01
Nissequogue River entrance	- 0	07
Stony Brook, Smithtown Bay	+0	05
Stratford Shoal	- 0	09
Pt. Jefferson Harbor entrance	- 0	01
Port Jefferson	+0	02
Setauket Harbor	0	00
Conscience Bay ent. (Narrows)	+0	03
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0	05
Herod Point	- 0	11
Mattituck Inlet	+0	39
Horton Point	- 0	24
Truman Beach	- 0	46

NEW LONDON

DAY	AM	PM
23-Thur.	--------	12:12
24-Fri.	12:36	12:48
25-Sat.	1:24	1:30
26-Sun.	2:12	2:24
27-Mon.	3:12	3:24
28-Tues.	4:18	4:30
29-Wed.	5:24	5:36
30-Thur.	6:18	6:36

on NEW LONDON

	h.	m.
Plum Gut Harbor, Plum Island	+0	34
Little Gull Island	+0	17
Shelter Island Sound		
Orient	+0	41
Greenport	+1	09
Southold	+1	48
Noyack Bay	+2	10
Sag Harbor	+1	04
Cedar Island	+0	49
Peconic Bays		
New Suffolk	+2	31
South Jamesport	+2	37
Shinnecock Canal	+2	38
Three mile Hbr. ent., Gardiners Bay	+0	26
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	- 0	09
Montauk Harbor entrance	- 0	20
Montauk, Fort Pond Bay	- 0	24
Montauk Point, north side	- 1	08



BAKED WHOLE BLUEFISH

Clean fish* leaving head and tail on if desired. Dry and rub inside with salt. Place fish on a well buttered or oiled baking sheet. Bake in oven at (550° F) 10 to 15 minutes or until browned. Reduce temperature to (350° F) for 30 to 45 minutes. Baste several times during baking. If head and tail are removed, boil to make stock and freeze to be used for a fish chowder or sauce. To serve, lift fish with spatula and slide onto heated platter. Garnish with lemon slices and water cress or parsley. A nice side dish with this is tomato and potato combination.

**An excellent and inexpensive tool to clean the inside of fish is a tooth-brush.*

****

TOMATO & POTATO

1 large can tomatoes
1 large green pepper sliced
1 tsp. oregano
1 clove garlic minced
1 medium onion sliced
2 tbsps. olive oil
1 tsp. parsley
salt and pepper

Peel and slice one medium potato per person. Par boil till just pierceable. Drain and add above ingredients. Simmer slowly till done.

****

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